

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKV #2530 3651407  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 301407Z DEC 08  
FM AMEMBASSY KYIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6978  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0044  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0022  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0019  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0011  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0077  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0019

C O N F I D E N T I A L KYIV 002530

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/29/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [RS](#) [GG](#) [UP](#)  
SUBJECT: WAY FORWARD ON THE SEPARATIST REGIONS OF GEORGIA

REF: STATE 134559

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Taylor.  
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche to First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladymir Khandogiy on December 29. Khandogiy thanked the Ambassador for the consultation. He noted that Ukraine's position on Abkhazia and South Ossetian "independence" has been clear: Ukraine categorically opposes recognition. Khandogiy underlined that Ukraine had been very critical of the events of August 2008 and regards Russia's actions in Georgia as illegal.

¶2. (C) Khandogiy observed that sanctions are one way, and perhaps the only way, to make an impact in situations like this. While providing a disclaimer that his government must review our proposal, he speculated that Ukraine would likely support the U.S. strategy. He asked how the U.S. would see Ukrainian participation, particularly in economic sanctions.

¶3. (C) Khandogiy mused that it would be important to have the EU on "our" side in any sanctions against the two separatist regimes, noting that the EU played a central role in ending open hostilities in Georgia. He observed that for Ukraine, South Ossetia and Abkhazia are "non-existent entities." As a result, the question of a visa ban directed against bearers of South Ossetian or Abkhaz passports would likely not be an issue.

TAYLOR